

From: Robert Anderson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/14/02 6:14pm
Subject: Proposed Anti-Trust Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very alarmed that you have decided to proceed with a settlement arrangement that doesn't resolve the issues at hand.

Having been involved with personal computing since the early 1980s, I firmly hold that the bundling approach that Microsoft took was truly an attempt to gain monopoly power, and was not done in the spirit of innovation, rather, was done to simply enrich MSFT's stockholders through unfair competition.

Any settlement must not only address the fact that Microsoft now enjoys dominance in the PC operating system environment, but must also set rigid rules that prevent them from doing so again.

The ultimate, and in my mind, most beneficial antitrust settlement would involve a breakup of Microsoft into two operating entities, Operating Systems and Applications. This type of breakup would ensure that multiple companies could fairly compete against one another in a market niche. For example, Lotus 1-2-3 is nearly non-existent, despite its initial market share/acceptance. Why? Simply put, Microsoft was able to out "engineer" them by knowing the strategic plans that the Windows operating system group was going to take . and to have access to the codebase used to create the varying types of Windows. These types of parallels can be drawn on nearly any area in which Microsoft has gained a huge market advantage over a competitor (word processing, database and so on)

Having experts at Redmond, overseeing compliance, but having their salaries paid by Microsoft also seems like a conflict of interest if there ever was one.

I agree with some in the community that believe that this constant cloud over Microsoft's head is a distraction for the nation's economic needs. but I don't use that excuse as a way to justify a quick, but faulty, settlement. Instead, I urge DOJ to act swiftly, but forcefully. Either financially hit the company (by forcing payments to consumers for an amount equal to the profits illegally generated by the monopoly) or break-up the company in a manner that will ensure that there will/would be more competition in the application and operating system development areas.

A breakup, although wrought with some initial complications, can be one of the best solutions for the country. as two new high-tech firms would

be formed from one monopoly. and enterprising companies may take advantage of the level playing field when it comes to getting "inside" information from developers.

Sincerely,

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